

# ANG gets new chief

By MSgt Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Command CMSgt Valerie Denette Benton is the new senior enlisted adviser to the Air National Guard's director. She assumed the organization's top enlisted position June 7.

She succeeds Command CMSgt Gary Broadbent who is retiring after nearly 26 years of Air Force and Air National Guard service.

Prior to becoming the eighth person to serve in the Guard's senior enlisted position, CMSgt Benton was chief of Air National Guard Affairs for the Air Force's First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., since September 1997.

CMSgt Benton has served for 22 consecutive years, including nearly a decade in the Air Guard after leaving the active-duty Air Force in June 1991.

"I know my role will be to represent all of our enlisted people," said CMSgt Benton. "I'm excited about spending time with our young troops."



Photo by A1C Harold Barnes III

## Summer is here

Swimmers take advantage of the Malmstrom swimming pool Saturday. See page 12, Happenings, for pool hours. The pool opened June 1.

# 'Guard' ups security, downs transfer time

*New program filters material, automates data movement, gives Air Force more flexibility*

By Rhonda Siciliano

Electronic Systems Center Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFP) - A new information "guard" system developed by the Electronic Systems Center here will allow computer users to move information between Air Force organizations more securely while reducing transfer time between security levels.

The Information Support Server Environment Guard System, developed by ESC's Defense Information

Infrastructure Air Force system program office, automatically filters out classified information sent to recipients with lower security classifications.

The system automates data movement resulting in considerable cost and time savings, said Matt Mleziva, DII program director.

A single ISSE Guard can support the information transfer requirements of a large number of users with various security classifications residing on both local and wide area networks. Once installed, the guard itself is unmanned, and only periodic audit and archiving are required.

"This program dramatically increases the efficiency and effectiveness of our combat operations by providing the warfighter with a more secure and timely method to transfer data," Mleziva said.

He said this system consists of two components, the

common guard interface and the guard software.

The common guard interface is a Windows-based support services application that allows high and low security classification users to select and securely transfer files from their workstation to the ISSE guard, Mleziva said.

The guard software provides a secure connection and upgrades or downgrades information based on the recipient's security classification. It then transfers data across the security boundary.

The guard can also be configured to allow e-mail to flow from low to high security classifications using only standard mail systems, Mleziva said. A new version is being released this summer which adds virus checking.

The systems were delivered to worldwide operations such as the Korean Combat Operations Intelligence Center, and to installations in Puerto Rico, Italy and Germany, he said.

## AEF prepares for changes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - While the first two aerospace expeditionary force cycles focused on early notification, predictability and stability for Air Force people, Cycle 3 will concentrate on team-oriented deployments.

"We pretty much relied on 'brute force' to get off the ground and went right into the execution phase (in the first aerospace expeditionary force cycle)," said Col Walter Burns, commander of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va. "By the end of Cycle 1, the 120-day deployment notification goal was fine-tuned, and we've improved on that during Cycle 2."

The 15-month Cycle 2 began in December 2000 and runs through February 2002.

AEF officials noticed in Cycle 2 that the current "unit type codes" - positions grouped together to provide specific warfighting capabilities - were designed to meet the nation's strategy of being able to fight two major theater wars at the same time.

"They were all very large UTCs," Col Burns said, and were in contrast to the much smaller needs of ongoing requirements like operations Southern Watch and Northern Watch. So UTCs are being redesigned to reflect the demands of the current world environment.

The redesign effort focuses on building modular, scalable UTCs that allow force providers to respond to the full spectrum of

military operations. With smaller, scalable UTCs, many of the teams deploying for AEF Cycle 3 will come from a single base, rather than individual members deploying from many bases, Col Burns said.

"Before, you would have seven or eight different bases providing one or two or three people to go over to do the work in a particular shop," Col Burns said. "The team developed after they got off the plane and reported for duty. There was no coherent team aspect there. That's what we're trying to fix right now."

Currently, deployment taskings for a large Air Force wing are spread across all 10 AEFs that make up a cycle.

"A base like Langley would have people on the road all the time," Col Burns said. "But now, our goal is to tap a wing hard once, and then not so hard during a second on-call period. This will keep bases such as Langley and Shaw from being deployed all the time."

The teaming concept also means most expeditionary combat support troops will travel at the same time as the aircrews and maintainers in their unit.

Col Burns said one of the challenges is to define the maximum team contribution a wing can provide before home operations are affected.

"We're telling folks that you have to expect some pain, but we don't want to break a wing," he said.

## AF Reserve offers tenure extensions

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFP) - Reservists with a high-year-of-tenure date between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2002, may request an extension of their enlistment in the Selected Reserve.

Unit reservists, including active Guard and Reserve members, have until Aug. 31 to obtain their wing commander's recommendation. Individual mobilization augmentees have 30 days from the date of notification to apply for an extension.

Air Force Reserve Command is offering the temporary exception to policy so it can attain mission and end-strength objectives, military personnel officials here said.

Reservists with a previous extension may request an additional two years not to exceed a combined total of five years, or age 60. People requesting an extension for the first time may ask for up to three years if the extension does not take them past their 60th birthday.

If the reservist filled a position before June 1, because of an anticipated vacancy created by a HYT date, the replacement and the reservist eligible for the extension can occupy the same position during the extension period. The replacement is not eligible for promotion until the promotion cycle after the extended

reservist actually leaves the position. The extended reservist is not eligible for promotion.

When evaluating unit mission needs, commanders have the option of requesting the return to the Selected Reserve of reservists who retired because of a HYT date between October and May. The same terms apply to returning retirees - their combined HYT extension cannot be for more than five years, and they cannot be extended beyond age 59.

Air reserve technicians who decide to retire from civil service will have their HYT extension terminated when they leave their civil service position.

The Reserve began phasing in its HYT program Jan. 1, 1989. The Reserve started the program to improve grade ratios, ensure sustained promotion opportunity for lower-grade enlisted people and increase readiness with a more fit force.

Before 1989, reservists could conceivably stay in the service more than 40 years, depending on when they enlisted. For example, reservists who joined the service at age 18 and did not take a break in service, could serve for 42 years before reaching mandatory separation at age 60.